

MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
September 28, 2020

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM on the Zoom virtual meeting application.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Mayor Keeler.
3. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
4. Approval of Minutes/Summary:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes and Summary of the 09/14/2020 regular meeting. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. County Commissioner Report: None.
7. Agenda Amendments: None
8. Mayor's Report:
Mayor Keeler reported having talked with Jerry DeBoer of the Historical Society, which may dissolve and donate its remaining bank balance for a historical purpose. Mayor Keeler asked for Council's consideration for what could be restored using the money while the Historical Society works through dissolution.
9. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. DPW Superintendent Nieuwenhuis gave a summary about events at 934 East Bridge. He reported the new owner was having issues with the sewer line that could not be rodded out, but the city's main line tested successfully, so it was assumed the issue was on private property. Upon investigation, it was determined there was a stub at the location but it was not connected to the lead during the 2013 M-89 construction project, based on field notes. Kalin Construction and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was responsible for that project. The city provides the utility and normal sewer utility charges have been billed to this location for many years. While the issue continues to be investigated with MDOT, but the Administration feels that the property owner should be reimbursed for his costs incurred to connect to the sewer line that should have been done in 2013. There was discussion about having the property owner deal with MDOT for resolution, but since this owner did not own the property in 2013, the city feels it is in a better position to attempt negotiation with MDOT.
A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, to authorize the City Manager to reimburse property owner Matthew Luegge \$16,570.66 for costs incurred in connecting to city sewer at 934 East Bridge Street, and to authorize staff to negotiate with Michigan Department of Transportation for any remedies available. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. City Clerk Kelley reported having applied for grant funding from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for election-related technology and safety costs/upgrades. An award letter was offered in the amount of \$5,000, which could be used to offset the cost of the tabulator for the Absent Voter Counting Board as well as additional personal protective equipment and supplies for the election precincts that could be used city-wide when elections are not happening.

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A motion by Overhuel, seconded by Steele, to accept a grant award of up to \$5,000 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for election related costs, equipment and personal protective equipment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

10. Communications:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to accept and place on file the August 2020 Public Safety Report and the August 2020 Water Renewal Report. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

11. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Overhuel, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$36,749.54 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

12. Public Comments: None

13. Staff Comments

Community Development Manager Siegel reported the building at 200 East Bridge was sold, and that the Champion Law Building had an offer. She updated Council on ribbon cuttings and businesses opening soon. She noted that Pumpkins in the Park will be a weekend-long scavenger hunt event. She reported that three (3) applications for Volunteer of the Year and that the Chris Haas family will make the award at the October 12 Council Meeting. She also reminded Council of upcoming public hearings at the Planning Commission.

Superintendent Pond gave water renewal maintenance and permit updates and discussed a stormwater review.

Director Bomar reported asking for guidance from the Allegan County Health Department regarding Halloween protocols.

Clerk/Treasurer Kelley reported having issued 665 absent voter ballots as of 5pm today and that the financial auditors are onsite doing fieldwork.

City Manager Wilson gave a brief update on the mill demolition noting change orders being worked on. He also reported having ordered engineering for the water tower study.

14. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Steele reported that school busses will be back on city streets starting October 1.

Council Member Keeney reported that the library building is near completion.

15. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. On voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Brian Kelley
City Clerk/Treasurer

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
October 12, 2020



Brian Kelley, City Clerk